



Student Access Office
Ruth S Harley University Center
Room 314
1 South Ave
Garden City, NY 11530

Adelphi University Housing Accommodation Assignment Process

Adelphi University provides housing accommodation assignments in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1978, and the Fair Housing Act to ensure equal access to Residential Life programs, activities, and facilities. Adelphi University's Residential Life and Housing is committed to achieving access and does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. This process derives from the University's commitment to non-discrimination for all persons, access to facilities, student programs, activities, and services and addresses reasonable accommodations. Adelphi University is fully committed to the full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of College life, including residential life.

The learning environment and residential living are central to the Adelphi University experience. It should be noted that living within the community and learning to share space and be considerate of others is part of that learning experience. Therefore, requests for special housing accommodations (as an ADA, Section 504, Fair Housing Act) based on a student's preference or desire for "privacy" and "quiet space" rather than need, or for a particular type of living environment/location are considered exceptions to this process and will not be honored (e.g., a student diagnosed with ADHD or a learning disability seeking a single room to serve as a distraction-free, undisturbed place to study, concentrate, etc., represents a preference, but not a necessity.) Additionally, by virtue of the shared facilities, resources, and number of people living under one roof, it is not reasonable to assume that having a single room would provide for privacy and/or a quiet, distraction-free space to any appreciable degree beyond living in a standard double or triple room. Should it be determined through the petition review process that a student does not qualify for a housing accommodation under these aforementioned federal laws will be referred to Residential Life and Housing for participation in the Room Selection Process

To submit requests for accommodations based on a disability and barrier to access, please contact the Student Access Office (SAO), located in the Ruth S. Harley University Center, Room 314, (516) 877-3806 for information on how to file a Petition for Reasonable Housing Accommodation Assignment form and the ADA Guidelines for Documentation to support the request. The Petition form and the ADA Guidelines for Documentation can also be obtained from the SAO webpage, sao@adelphi.edu

REVIEW OF HOUSING REQUESTS BASED ON DISABILITY RELATED NEED IS DETERMINED ON a case by case basis. Requests should be submitted to SAO for review and determination. The Student Access Office will review the Petition and documentation in accordance with federal laws pertaining to equal access; all submitted information is considered confidential.

The following is a summary of the factors considered when reviewing housing accommodation requests:

WHAT IS THE IMPAIRMENT?

An impairment is a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act only if it substantially limits one or more major life activities. An impairment is substantially limiting if a person is unable to perform an activity as compared to an average person in the general population. Three factors must be considered in determining whether a person's impairment substantially limits a major life activity. These are:

- its nature and severity
- its duration, how long it will last or is expected to last
- its permanent or long term impact, or expected impact.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO A MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITY?

A major life activity is an activity that an average person can perform with little or no difficulty. Examples are walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, caring for oneself, sitting, standing, lifting, reading. Therefore:

- what is the specific barrier to access
- how does the barrier impact functioning
- is the accommodation request reasonable and appropriate

TIMING OF THE REQUEST

- Was the request made with initial housing request?
- Was the request made before the deadline for housing requests for the semester in question?
- Was the request made as soon as possible after identifying the need? (Based on date of diagnosis, receipt of housing assignment, change in status, etc.)

FEASIBILITY & AVAILABILITY

- Is space available that meets the student's needs?
- Can space be adapted to provide the requested configuration without creating a safety hazard (electrical load, emergency egress, etc.)?
- Are there other effective methods or housing configurations that would achieve similar benefits as the requested configuration?
- How does meeting this request impact housing commitments to other students?

In order to consider requests for a single room housing accommodation assignment based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Fair Housing Act, in addition to documentation, we require the following information:

- ❖ Diagnosis, including ICD-9 codes and date of diagnosis.
- ❖ How does the disability make it **impossible** for the student to live with a roommate?
- ❖ Does the impairment qualify as a disability that **substantially** limits the ability to perform one or more major life activities? How and which activities?
- ❖ Is impact of the condition life threatening if the request is not met?
- ❖ Is the request an integral component of a treatment plan for the condition in question?
- ❖ Are there other ways to meet the student's needs that allow full participation in the Adelphi academic and residential/roommate experience? If not, why not?

A qualified individual must provide the evaluation: The assessment must be provided by a *licensed* professional qualified to make the evaluation, such as a medical specialist, psychologist or psychiatrist.